

version of the current Student Assignment Plan to show the proposed changes and additional information on what will happen after waitlists are dissolved on May 31 and when seats become available after waitlists are dissolved. This Board Action Report has been updated to include the requested information.

The Student Assignment Plan was approved by the Board in 2009 to provide greater predictability for families while still offering opportunities for school choice. Annual Transition Plans guided a phased approach to implementation. The Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment 3130SP sets forth the implementation of the policies established by the Board in the Student Assignment Plan and the most recent Transition Plan (2013-14). These documents are the guides for the SPS Service Center and other district staff and must be viewed as integrated companions to fully understand the Student Assignment Plan.

The purpose of this action is to streamline and clarify the outstanding questions that have been brought up regarding student assignment over the past several years. There are a number of different student assignment documents (including previous annual transition plans) available on the Seattle Public Schools website. It is not always clear which document supersedes the others. We want to clear up conflicting and confusing statements and resolve and clarify all points of the Student Assignment Plan. The updated Student Assignment Plan also eliminates information on programs and services, which change frequently, and refers the community to the respective program offices for the most accurate and up to date information. Additionally, the proposed Student Assignment Plan moves the date when the waitlist will be dissolved to May 31 from the current date of September 30. This new timeline will provide schools and families information on their assignments for the next school year earlier allowing more time for planning and minimizing student shifts after school has begun. Seats that become available after May 31 will be available for assignments for new students. The intended effect of this motion is to reduce the number of inquiries regarding student assignment policies and potential parent and family complaints about improperly applied policies.

This motion also completes the final implementation of the Student Assignment Plan, including the elimination of the distance tiebreaker. The Student Assignment Plan, as introduced in 2009, did not include the distance tiebreaker. However, it was included in a subsequent Annual Transition Plan. We are now in year six of Student Assignment Plan implementation and assignment data indicates that families have adjusted to the neighborhood school system of initial assignment. Choice data also indicates a preference for "local" schools.

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Whether to approve the Student Assignment Plan, as attached.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

Keeping the Student Assignment Plan as currently written is not recommended because the recommended changes are appropriate and necessary. These changes represent updated student assignment information and efforts to reduce confusion regarding which documents and policies are currently in effect.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

A presentation summary is attached to this document. Separately, Enrollment Planning ~~we will~~ hosted ~~five~~four public meetings in ~~late September and early~~ October ~~in each of the five SPS~~ ~~regions~~ to discuss these ~~minor~~ revisions.

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the Student Assignment Plan will go into effect for the 2016-17 school year and all school years subsequent, until further amended by Board action. The Plan will be uploaded onto the District's Enrollment Planning and Admissions webpages for access by the public.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- Redlined Student Assignment Plan which shows the proposed changes from the 2013-2014 Annual Transition Plan (the current governing document)
- Summary Presentation



~~NEW~~ STUDENT ASSIGNMENT
PLAN

Board Action: November 4, 2015

~~TRANSITION PLAN FOR 2013-14~~

~~Approved January 31, 2013~~

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SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Preface

The ~~A New Student Assignment Plan (NSAP)~~ was approved by the Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Board of Directors in 2009 to provide greater predictability for families while still offering opportunities for school choice. Annual Transition Plans for 2010-11, 2011-12, ~~and 2012-13~~, and 2013-14 guided a phased approach to implementation.⁴ The purpose of this document is to provide a single, unified resource that explains student assignment in the Seattle Public Schools district.

The Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment 3130SP sets forth the implementation of the policies established by the Board in the Student Assignment Plan and the most recent Transition Plan (2013-14). These three documents are the guides for the SPS Service Center and other district staff and must be viewed as integrated companions to fully understand the Student Assignment Plan. Board Policy 3130 (revised in April 2014), which governs student assignment, states:

It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that students shall have the opportunity to attend an elementary, middle, or high school in a designated attendance area based upon home address, unless the school designated by a student's home address does not have the appropriate services for the student's needs, as determined by the school district. In such instances, the student shall be assigned to a school that has the appropriate services. It is expected that most students will have the opportunity to attend their attendance area school.

Families may apply for assignment to a school in a different attendance area or a school that does not have a designated attendance area, but admission to such a school is not guaranteed. Assignment to these schools shall be based on an open application process and, in the case of more applicants than space available for students, an established set of tiebreakers shall apply.

When registering a student without a legal residence, the school district will comply with Policy No. 3115, Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services.

When the district receives information from the parent/guardian, student, or an agency that a student has a history of disciplinary actions, criminal or violent behavior, or other behavior that indicates the student could be a threat to the safety of staff or students, the district will comply with all applicable legal statutes including RCW 13.40.215 (enrollment of student found to have committed a violent, sex offense, and/or stalking crime).

The Superintendent or his or her designee is authorized to develop procedures to implement this policy.

The Superintendent is directed to provide an annual enrollment report to the School Board.

Unless otherwise specified, boundaries, feeder patterns, option school GeoZones, and assignment rules remain in effect until there are changes approved by the School Board.

⁴ ~~The transition plan and assignment rules apply to resident students only. Different rules apply for non-resident students.~~
Seattle Public Schools

~~This Transition Plan will be the last such plan required for phased implementation of the NSAP. The provisions of this Plan will prevail in the case of any conflicts with the previously approved NSAP, attendance area boundaries, and/or GeoZones. Unless otherwise specified, boundaries, feeder patterns, option school GeoZones, and assignment rules will remain in effect until there are changes approved by the School Board. It is anticipated that changes will be needed to address capacity management issues as district enrollment continues to grow. The transition from the old assignment plan to the NSAP will continue to provide stability for students by continuing (grandfathering) assignments at schools they attended through 2009-10 and continue to attend.² Assignments made for 2010-11 and beyond are not grandfathered and NSAP rules apply.~~

~~School assignments are based on approved attendance area boundaries. Every student has an attendance area elementary, middle, and high school based on residence. Elementary attendance areas are combined to create middle school attendance areas, resulting in feeder patterns from elementary to middle school.~~

~~The middle school attendance area is also a service area for elementary and middle school students. Various services are provided for students who live within a service area. Most specialized services for middle and high school students are provided at their attendance area school. If required English Language Learner (ELL) or special education services are not available at a student's attendance area school, the school will generally be linked with a nearby school or service area with the required services.³~~

~~School choice allows students to apply for other schools during an annual Open Enrollment period through the end of September. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area and/or option schools.~~

~~This Transition Plan continues most of the assignment rules in effect during 2012-13, while at the same time completing the phase-out of transitional constraints on full implementation of the NSAP. Some constraints on assignment of siblings to the same school are also eliminated. Some highlights and changes are:~~

- ~~• Simplification of tiebreakers~~
- ~~• Addition of a distance tiebreaker for elementary and middle school attendance area schools~~
- ~~• Changes to Spectrum middle school assignments~~
- ~~• Implementation of a GeoZone for K-5 STEM at Boren~~

~~The Jane Addams building is designated to become an attendance area middle school, with the first middle school students assigned to Jane Addams Middle School beginning in 2014-15. Planning will begin with appointment of a Design Team in Spring 2013. The Design Team will initially work under the guidance of designated central office staff to allow time for the Design Team to be involved in identifying characteristics of the planning principal. A planning principal will be in place no later than September 2013.~~

² These grandfathered students may continue at the current school as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

³ There will continue to be a limited number of programs or services that are unique enough, and that serve such a limited population, that they cannot be offered in every service area or high school attendance area. If a student is assigned to a linked school to access certain special education or ELL services, the linked school becomes the designated (attendance area) school. Throughout this document, references to attendance area schools also include linked schools, and assignments are always dependent on the school offering the services the student needs.

~~SECTION II: STANDARD ASSIGNMENTS~~

Summary

Standard Assignments

Initial school assignments are based on approved attendance area boundaries, as long as the school offers the services the student needs. Every student has an attendance area (or designated) elementary, middle, and high school based on residence. Elementary attendance areas are combined to create middle school attendance areas, resulting in feeder patterns from elementary school to middle school. There are not feeder patterns from middle school to high school. Each attendance area high school has its own geographic attendance area.

Families may apply for assignment to a school other than their designated school, but admission to such a school is not guaranteed. Requests must be submitted through the school choice procedures in place at the time of the initial assignment or during designated transfer periods. Please refer to the section on **School Choice** for additional information.

~~Assignments to attendance area schools are based on residence. All current students and all new students who complete early enrollment will get an assignment letter prior to Open Enrollment. Students new to the district start with an assignment to their attendance area school.~~

~~Initial assignment letters confirm continuing assignments or provide notification of new assignments for the upcoming school year. These are initial assignments, and nothing further is required if the family resides at the same address and wishes to keep the initial assignment (as long as the school offers the services the student needs). The letters include information about the Open Enrollment timeline and process so families know what steps to take if they wish to request a different assignment for the upcoming school year. (See Section IV for more information on school choice.)~~

~~After September 30, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available. New students in grades 6-8 may also choose a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school's service area.~~

~~K-12 students may transfer to their attendance area school after Open Enrollment through September 30, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.~~

~~**K-8 students who live outside of their assigned school's walk zone and are not eligible for transportation may transfer to their attendance area school at any time, as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.**~~

Continuing Assignments

Students ~~who~~ will automatically get receive a continuing assignment to the ~~same~~ current school, as long as the school offers the grade and services the student needs under the following circumstances:

- Students who have not moved outside of their current attendance area and whose current school includes their next year grade and current program required services.
- ~~Students with a grandfathered assignment from 2009-10.~~
- Students at option schools will be continued at that school through the highest grade served by the school, ~~as long as the school offers the services the student needs~~.
- Students with a choice assignment to an attendance area school that is not the student's attendance area school.
- Students at a K-8 school rising to 6th grade.

New Assignments

Students who will get a new assignment (no application is required) under the following circumstances:

- Students whose current school does not include their next year grade or required ~~special education or ELL~~ services. Students will be automatically assigned to their attendance area school for the upcoming school year, except ~~as noted~~ for certain pathway assignments and to meet required ~~special education or ELL~~ services; ~~no application is required~~.
- Students at their previous attendance area school who have moved out of the school's attendance area (except students grandfathered at the school); ~~no application is required~~.

~~Grandfathered Assignments~~

~~All students enrolled with a grandfathered assignment from 2009-10 who stay at the school are continued (grandfathered) at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs; no application is required.~~

Students Entering Kindergarten

Students entering kindergarten will have an initial assignment to their attendance area school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.

- This includes students currently receiving special education developmental preschool services who will be five years old by August 31, unless their individualized education program (IEP) calls for services not available at their attendance area school.
- ~~Students attending PreK at South Shore will be assigned to continue at South Shore for kindergarten.~~
- Students who meet eligibility requirements for early entrance to kindergarten are assigned to their attendance area school upon request, and may apply for other schools on a space available basis through ~~September 30~~ May 31.

~~For information on assignment of siblings to the same school, see Section IV-D (Siblings and School Choice).~~

Students Entering 6th- Grade

New Students

Students new to the district will be assigned to their attendance area middle school. Upon request, middle school students who live in the service attendance area of a K-8 attendance area school will instead be assigned to that K-8 school.⁴ ~~Students may also apply to any school with space available during Open Enrollment through September 30. After September 30, assignments for new students are to their attendance area middle school, to a K-8 attendance area school if they live within that school's service area, or to an option school with space available.~~

Students Currently Attending an Elementary School

Students entering 6th-grade from a K-5 school will generally receive an initial assignment to their attendance area middle school, except for certain pathway assignments, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.

~~**APP:** Students assigned to APP receive an initial assignment to their APP pathway middle school based on where they live. If they apply for their attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through September 30, they will be assigned to that school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).~~

~~Students eligible for (but not assigned to) APP for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their APP pathway school; they must apply during Open Enrollment through September 30. If they apply for APP during Open Enrollment through September 30, they will be assigned to their APP pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.~~

~~If a student becomes eligible for APP for the current or following school year after September 30 and applies for APP, they will be assigned to their APP pathway school.⁵ Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through September 30 and depends on space available.~~

~~**Spectrum:** 5th grade students eligible for Spectrum will receive an initial assignment to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school for 6th grade; no application is required.~~

⁴-Catharine Blaine K-8 (McClure Service Area), Broadview Thomson K-8 (Whitman Service Area), Madrona K-8 (Washington Service Area)

⁵This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students. Eligibility is determined by the Advanced Learning department.

~~Any Spectrum-eligible student may apply for Spectrum at another attendance area school or K-8 school with Spectrum during Open Enrollment through September 30; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.~~

~~**International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway, and who apply during Open Enrollment through September 30, will be assigned there (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).⁶ –Elementary to middle school pathways go into effect when an elementary program extends through 5th grade.~~

~~Students may also apply for any school during Open Enrollment through September 30, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.~~

Students Currently Attending a K-8 School

Students entering 6th grade and attending K-8 schools will be assigned to continue at their current K-8 school for 6th grade, as long as the school offers the services the student needs.⁷

- ~~• If they apply for their attendance area middle school during Open Enrollment through September 30 they will be assigned to their attendance area school as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).~~

~~Students may apply for any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through September 30.~~

- ~~• **APP:** Students eligible for (but not assigned to) APP for the following school year are not automatically assigned to their APP pathway school. If they apply for APP during Open Enrollment through September 30, they will be assigned to their APP pathway school. Assignment to the non-pathway school depends on space available; tiebreakers apply during Open Enrollment.~~

~~If a student becomes eligible for APP for the current or following school year after September 30 and applies for APP, they will be assigned to their APP pathway school.⁸ –Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested through September 30 and depends on space available.~~

- ~~• **Spectrum:** Spectrum-eligible students who apply for their attendance area school by September 30 will be assigned to Spectrum at that school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).~~

Students may also apply for any school with space available during Open Enrollment through September 30/May 31, including K-8, attendance area, and option schools. After waitlists are dissolved, assignments for new students are to their attendance area middle school, to a K-8 attendance area

⁶–One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or APP if applicable).

⁷–Students enrolled in Spectrum at their K-8 school will be continued in Spectrum without having to reapply.

⁸This occurs when a student is new to the district after the testing deadline has passed, enrolls from another public school district, and can document comparable eligibility and participation in that district's similar program for gifted students.

school if they live within that school's attendance area, or to an option school with space available. Assignment depends on space available; tiebreakers apply only during Open Enrollment.

Students Entering 9th Grade

Current students and students new to the district will generally be assigned to their attendance area high school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs. Students may also apply to any school during Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31. After ~~September 30~~ waitlists are dissolved, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.

- ~~• **APP:** Students assigned to APP in 8th grade will receive an initial assignment to Garfield. They may also apply for the APP/IB program at Ingraham; assignment to Ingraham depends on space available and tiebreakers. If not assigned to APP/IB at Ingraham they retain their seat at Garfield (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). High school students who do not currently have an APP assignment but have met district standards for Academically Highly Gifted students are eligible to apply for 9th grade in the APP/IB program at Ingraham. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers.~~

~~If they apply for their attendance area high school during Open Enrollment through September 30, they will be assigned to their attendance area school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice).~~

- ~~• **International Schools:** Non-attendance area students who are eligible for an International Schools pathway and who apply for the pathway school during Open Enrollment through September 30 will be assigned to the relevant pathway school (unless they apply for and are assigned to a higher ranked choice). Middle to high school pathways go into effect when a middle school program extends through 8th grade.~~

~~Students may also apply to any school with space available during or after Open Enrollment through September 30. After September 30, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school or to an option school with space available.~~

Students Who Move

When students move, they may have the option of or be required to get a new school assignment, depending on when and where they move. In general, students **must** change to their new attendance area schools if:

- They are assigned to their attendance area school ~~(even if they have a choice assignment)~~, are not grandfathered, and they move to a new attendance area. If they move before the school year starts, they must change schools for the new school year. If they move during the school year, they may finish the year at their current school, but they must change schools the next year.

~~Students may change to their new attendance area school if they move to a new attendance area.~~ In all cases, reassignments are subject to any ~~ELL/special education~~ services a student may require. Detailed move rules are available in the Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment.⁹

Grandfathered Assignments

⁹ Available on the district website
Seattle Public Schools

Enrollment growth and levy-funded construction occasionally result in a need to adjust school attendance area boundaries. As growth boundary changes are implemented, students and their families may elect to stay at their current school, through a grandfathered assignment, if available. All students enrolled with a grandfathered assignment who stay at the school are continued (grandfathered) at that school through the highest grade served by the school, as long as the school offers the services the student needs; no application is required.

~~SECTION III: ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES~~

Access to Programs and Services

The middle school attendance area is also a service area for elementary and middle school students. Various services (Advanced Learning, Special Education, etc.) are provided for students who live within a service area. Most specialized services for middle and high school students are provided at their attendance area school.

If required services are not available at the student's attendance area school, the school will generally be linked with a nearby school or service area with the required services. There will continue to be a limited number of programs or services that are unique enough, and that serve such a limited population, that they cannot be offered in every service area or attendance area. If a student is assigned to a linked school to access certain services, the linked school becomes the designated (attendance area) school. Please refer to the Superintendent's Procedures for Student Assignment or other supplemental documents for additional information about program and service offerings and locations. ~~SPS offers a variety of programs and services to meet a range of student needs, including English Language Learners (ELL), students who need special education services, students who are homeless, and advanced learners. Many students are assigned to their attendance area school regardless of most service needs. For required special education or ELL services not available at every attendance area school, a linked school is generally designated. This provides predictable assignments for students who need these services.~~

~~Schools and services are also available for students who have various behavioral, attendance, or academic challenges as well as for students who self-select into certain unique programs. Students are assigned to these schools or programs individually based on specific needs and circumstances, not through the standard assignment process.~~

Special Education

~~Students who receive Special Education Resource/IGS⁴⁰ services are assigned to their attendance area school, and may also apply for assignment to another school through school choice.~~

~~Students who are eligible for certain intensive special education services are assigned to their attendance area or linked school (for middle and high school students), and may also apply for assignment to another school that offers those services through school choice. The linked schools for these service models are posted online prior to Open Enrollment, along with linked schools for other programs and services, and provide greater assignment predictability.⁴⁴~~

~~Standard assignment rules and tiebreakers apply.~~

~~Students who receive all other intensive special education services are assigned individually based on student needs, and may also apply for assignment to another school offering the same services through school choice.~~

~~These assignments are in alignment with NSAP boundaries and feeder patterns, to the extent possible, depending on capacity, proximity, and individual service needs. Assignments are made individually to ensure that each student's IEP requirements can be met and that the appropriate services are available at the assigned school. Transportation for students with disabilities is based on individual needs.~~

⁴⁰ Integrated Comprehensive Services

⁴⁴ If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.

English Language Learners (ELL)

Most students who need ELL services are assigned to their attendance area school. A linked school is designated to provide services not available at every attendance area school. This provides predictable assignments for students needing ELL services. Students who need ELL services may also apply for other schools through school choice. Bilingual Orientation Center services are available for newcomers.

Advanced Learning (APP, APP/IB, ALO, Spectrum)¹²

Opportunities for advanced learners are increasingly and intentionally becoming more widely available throughout the city.

Accelerated Progress Program (APP)

APP assignment pathways are based on where students live, not where they attend school. (See Appendix A.)

_____ APP at Lincoln > Hamilton > Garfield¹³

_____ Thurgood Marshall > Washington > Garfield

APP assignments continuing from 2009-10 are grandfathered.

Students entering APP in grades 1-8 who apply during Open Enrollment through September 30 will be assigned consistent with the approved APP pathways, based on where they live.

Students entering grades 1-8 who become eligible for APP after Open Enrollment will be assigned consistent with the APP pathways, based on where they live.

6th graders coming from APP at Lincoln or Thurgood Marshall will be assigned to APP at Hamilton or Washington consistent with the APP pathways, based on where they live.

Assignment to the non-pathway school may be requested during Open Enrollment through September 30 and depends on space available.

All 9th graders coming from APP at Hamilton or Washington will be assigned to Garfield and may apply for the APP/IB program at Ingraham.

If students assigned to APP apply for their attendance area school during Open Enrollment through September 30, they will be assigned to their attendance area school.

APP/IB Program at Ingraham High School

A second advanced learning option for APP-eligible high school students is offered at Ingraham.¹⁴ Academically Highly Gifted APP/IB students will generally take core classes together and then enroll in International Baccalaureate classes beginning in 10th grade—a year earlier than usual. An accelerated curriculum leads to an early IB diploma, allowing seniors to complete internships, college classes, and further electives.

Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO)

Students apply as general education students to schools offering the program (grades 1-5). ALO serves students identified as Academically Highly Gifted, Academically Gifted, and/or identified as advanced learners.¹⁵—Students participating in ALO who have met Spectrum or APP eligibility requirements

¹² See additional information in Sections II-C and II-D.

¹³ APP at Lincoln will remain at Lincoln for the next five school years, including this year.

¹⁴ Grades 9-11 in 2013-14, and grades 9-12 beginning in 2014-15.

¹⁵ Students do not need to be found eligible through a district testing process to participate in an ALO program. However, they do need to be found eligible through a district testing process to be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school.

maintain that eligibility through participation in an ALO program. A complete list of schools offering ALO will be available prior to Open Enrollment.

Spectrum

~~Spectrum is offered for elementary and middle school students identified as Academically Gifted through a district testing program. For elementary grade students, Spectrum is offered at one or more schools in each service area. Every attendance area middle school also offers Spectrum. Newly-eligible elementary students must apply for Spectrum during Open Enrollment through September 30. (They are not assigned automatically when found eligible, since that may result in a change of school which the family might or might not want). Assignments to grades 1-5 Spectrum are based on space available and tiebreakers.~~

~~Spectrum-eligible students in grades 6-8 are guaranteed assignment to the Spectrum program at their attendance area middle school. Spectrum-eligible students in 5th grade at elementary schools will be automatically assigned to 6th grade Spectrum at their attendance area middle school. Spectrum-eligible students who are already assigned to their attendance area middle school (but are not assigned to Spectrum) who are entering 7th or 8th grade will also be automatically assigned to Spectrum at that school.¹⁶ Spectrum-eligible students who are not already assigned to their attendance area middle school will be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area middle school upon request, if they apply during Open Enrollment through September 30. Spectrum-eligible students may also apply for a Spectrum program at any other school through school choice, during Open Enrollment through September 30; assignment is based on space available and tiebreakers.~~

Montessori

~~Montessori programs are offered at several attendance area elementary schools (Daniel Bagley, Graham Hill, and Leschi). Students, including those who live in a school's attendance area, must apply for Montessori. Students who live in other attendance areas may also apply through the regular Open Enrollment process. Assignment depends on space available and tiebreakers.~~

International Schools

~~There are feeder pathways for language immersion students at International Schools. International School pathways are implemented as each cohort of students is ready to move to the next level. Assignment pathways are based on where students attend school (not where they live):¹⁷~~

~~————— John Stanford & McDonald > Hamilton > Ingraham
————— Beacon Hill & Dearborn Park > Mercer > TBD
————— Concord & Elementary TBD > Denny > Chief Sealth~~

~~John Stanford and McDonald are linked with B.F. Day, which is the guaranteed attendance area school if a family prefers that the student not participate in the language immersion program, as well as for students who are new beyond first grade and do not have the language background to be successful in an immersion program.~~

~~Assignment is guaranteed for non-attendance area language immersion students who apply for their pathway school during Open Enrollment through September 30.¹⁸ Pathway assignments are implemented as each grade cohort reaches middle school or high school.~~

High School Open Choice Seats

¹⁶ Unless the student is already assigned to a program other than General Education, such as APP

¹⁷ Two schools have not been named yet and are shown as TBD (to be determined).

¹⁸ One of the choices listed must be for the pathway school without designation of Spectrum (or APP, if applicable).

~~High school students in all grades can apply for Open Choice seats at other attendance area high schools, and the change to a more lottery-based assignment process provides more equitable access to Open Choice seats for students throughout the city. (See Appendix B for more information.)~~

~~Programs and Services~~

~~Information about locations of programs and services that could impact family choices will be available to families prior to the Open Enrollment period. Decisions will also be reflected in the designation of linked attendance area schools and will specify the services or program(s) for which the schools are linked.¹⁹ Information is also provided in quarterly reports to the Board, available online. (See School Board Policy # 2200 for additional information.)~~

~~SECTION IV: SCHOOL CHOICE~~

School Choice

Open Enrollment

School choice allows students to apply for ~~any other school(s) beginning during the an annual~~ Open Enrollment period, ~~through the end of September~~May 31. A student may apply for any combination of attendance area schools and/or option schools. If more students apply for a school during Open Enrollment than can be assigned, tiebreakers will determine assignments and the waitlist order. Once admitted to any school through school choice, the student may remain at that school through the highest grade at the school without having to reapply as long as the services the student needs are available at that school.

~~Open Enrollment applications will be processed as follows:~~

- All first choices will be processed first, then second choices next, etc.
- If more students apply than can be assigned, the approved tiebreakers are used.
- ~~Waiting~~Waitlists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.
- Each student may have one assignment and, if desired, be on one ~~waiting~~waitlist. ~~Waiting~~Waitlists stay active through ~~September 30~~May 31, after which ~~waiting~~waitlists are dissolved and there are no further ~~waiting~~waitlist moves for the school year.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to the first choice school, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is not on any ~~waiting~~waitlist.
- If a student submits an application and gets assigned to any one of the choices other than the first choice ~~other than the first choice~~, the previous assignment is dropped and the student is put on the ~~waiting~~waitlist for the first choice.
- If a student submits an application and doesn't get assigned to any of the choices, the previous assignment is still in place, and the student is put on the ~~waiting~~waitlist for the first choice.

After Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~May 31, students will be assigned to available choice seats on a first-come, first-served basis. After ~~September 30~~waitlists are dissolved, assignments for new students are to their attendance area school (including K-8 attendance area schools), or to an option school with space available.

¹⁹~~Changes not connected to the Open Enrollment process are adjusted as needed. If warranted by student needs, intensive special education services may be added at other locations and times.~~

Tiebreakers

If more students apply for a school during Open Enrollment than can be assigned, tiebreakers determine assignment and waiting-list status.

The standard tiebreakers for available seats after assignment of attendance area students at attendance area schools are:

- 1. Sibling
- 2. Lottery

The tiebreakers for available seats at option schools are:

- 1. Sibling
- 2. GeoZone
- 3. Lottery

The sibling tiebreaker is applicable for assignment to a school, but not for assignment to a specific program within a school. Geographic Zones, or GeoZones, give tiebreaker priority for students who live near the school, but are not a guarantee of assignment to the requested option school. The standard tiebreakers for assignments to programs are determined by the program area and published by that program area in advanced of Open Enrollment.

STANDARD TIEBREAKERS²⁰ for available seats after assignment of attendance area students			Option Schools (all grades)
Attendance — Area Elementary and K-8 Schools	Attendance Area Middle Schools	Attendance Area High Schools	
1. Sibling 2. Distance 3. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Feeder School (to Chief Sealth/ West Seattle HS only) 3. Lottery	1. Sibling 2. Geographic Zone 3. Lottery
MONTESSORI TIEBREAKERS			
Elementary Schools			

²⁰ A one-year non-continuing special program preference for Thornton Creek 5th-graders applying to Salmon Bay as their first choice school during Open Enrollment is included as part of capacity management for Eckstein during 2013-14. This is the second tiebreaker after siblings for Salmon Bay. [Note: This preference, without transportation, was originally approved on January 31, 2013. However, the Board subsequently (February 6, 2013) approved the Transportation Service Standards for 2013-14, which continued current transportation provisions to Salmon Bay. (Footnote continues on next page.)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance Area 2. Sibling 3. Distance 4. Lottery

SPECTRUM TIEBREAKERS	
Elementary and K-8 Schools	Middle Schools²⁴
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service Area 2. Sibling 3. Distance 4. Lottery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4. Lottery

APP TIEBREAKERS²²		
Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sibling 2. Distance 3. Lottery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sibling 2. Feeder School 3. Distance 4. Lottery 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sibling 2. Lottery

~~Waiting~~ Waitlists

Waiting lists established during Open Enrollment processing are based on the same processing sequence and tiebreakers used when making assignments.

After Open Enrollment assignments are made and ~~waiting~~ waitlists are established:

- Students may be added to the end of any ~~waiting~~ waitlist through ~~September 30~~ May 31, but no student may be on more than one ~~waiting~~ list at a time.
- ~~Waiting~~ lists stay active through ~~September 30~~ May 31.
- If there are multiple students added to the same school/grade/program ~~waiting~~ list on the same day, those students ~~only~~ will only be sequenced by lottery. ~~(They will not move ahead of students already on the waiting list from Open Enrollment or from a previous day.)~~
- If a school does not have a ~~waiting~~ list, assignments for space available are first come, first served ~~through September 30~~ until waitlists are dissolved.

²⁰ (Footnote continued from previous page.) Provide a one-year non-continuing suspension of the distance tiebreaker for 'out-of-attendance-area entering kindergarten siblings' of current John Stanford International School (JSIS) K-4 students. (This is for students who apply for JSIS as their first choice during Open Enrollment.) All other students would be ranked based on standard tiebreakers.

²¹ For students applying for Spectrum at a school other than their attendance area school; no application is needed for students who want to be assigned to Spectrum at their attendance area school.

²² Elementary and Middle School APP Tiebreakers are for students who want to attend APP in a non-pathway school. High School APP Tiebreakers are for students applying to APP/IB at Ingraham.

Siblings and School Choice

Seattle Public Schools ~~SPS~~ provides a variety of options for families who would like to have siblings assigned to the same school. Some options are guaranteed and some are not. A student's designated school is their attendance area school, or a linked school to which the student is assigned because the attendance area school does not have the required ~~special education or ELL~~ services the student needs.

1. New students who are siblings in the same grade span will start out ~~assigned~~ together at their designated school:
 - If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling without required ~~special education or ELL~~ service needs ~~needs~~ can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until ~~September 30~~ waitlists are dissolved (or at the time of enrollment if later).

2. Siblings in the same grade span who are assigned to different schools:
 - All siblings receive a tiebreaker priority during Open Enrollment when applying for a school which another sibling currently attends and will attend the following year.
 - After Open Enrollment through ~~September 30~~ May 31, any student will be assigned to their attendance area school upon request. If siblings have different designated schools due to different service needs, the sibling(s) without required ~~special education or ELL~~ service needs can be assigned to the other sibling's school upon request until ~~September 30~~ waitlists are dissolved.
3. Siblings who are already assigned together but who apply for reassignment together to one or more schools for the following school year:
 - If the siblings apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the applications will be processed using the "keep siblings together" rule: ~~if~~ all siblings cannot be assigned together to one of the schools listed, they will keep their original school assignments and all will be waitlisted for the first choice school. (No siblings are reassigned unless all siblings can be reassigned to the same school.)
 - Siblings may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for Spectrum at a school, while the other does not apply for any ~~special~~ program), as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order.
4. Twins (triplets and multiples)²³ who apply for assignment together to one or more schools:
 - If they apply for the same schools in the same order during Open Enrollment, the resulting school and program assignment of the student with the highest SPS student ID number will determine the assignment of the twin as long as that school provides all required services for both students.
 - They may apply for different programs at the same school (e.g. one of the siblings applies for the Spectrum program at a school while the other does not apply for any special program) as long as they apply for the same schools in the same order. A twin who is not eligible for the assigned program of the sibling with the highest student ID number will be assigned to the General Education program at the same school (or the ~~appropriate Special Education~~ another appropriate program, if applicable).
 - If the siblings are waitlisted for the same school and program during Open Enrollment, the twin with the lower student ID number will be placed on that ~~waiting~~ waitlist immediately after the twin with the highest ID number.

²³ ~~This includes triplets and other multiples, as well as siblings in the same grade.~~

APPENDIX A

Attendance Areas and Feeder Patterns

HIGH SCHOOLS

Attendance Area High Schools: Ballard, Franklin, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, Rainier Beach, Roosevelt, Chief Sealth, West Seattle.

Option High Schools: The Center School, Cleveland STEM, Nova

High School Feeder Patterns: Denny to Chief Sealth and Madison to West Seattle

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Attendance Area Middle Schools: Aki Kurose, Denny, Eckstein, Hamilton, Madison, McClure, Mercer, Washington, Whitman

Each Middle School Attendance Area has a group of elementary schools that feed into the middle school, and has one or more Option Schools or linked Option Schools.

SERVICE AREAS

Middle School Attendance Areas are also Service Areas. Most services needed by K-8 students who live in each Service Area will be provided within the Service Area.

Students may apply for any Attendance Area or Option School.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS	ELEMENTARY FEEDER SCHOOLS (Including K-8 Attendance Area Schools)	OPTION SCHOOLS	APP PATHWAYS ²⁴
Aki Kurose	Dunlap, Emerson, Graham Hill, Martin Luther King Jr., Rainier View, Wing Luke	South Shore (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Denny	Arbor Heights, Concord, Highland Park, Roxhill, Sanislo, West Seattle Elementary	Pathfinder (K-8) K-5 STEM at Boren (K-5)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Eckstein	Bryant, Green Lake, John Rogers, Laurelhurst, Olympic Hills, Olympic View, Sacajawea, Sand Point, View Ridge, Wedgwood	Pinehurst (K-8) Jane Addams (K-8) Thornton Creek (K-5)	-APP at Lincoln Hamilton Garfield
Hamilton	B.F. Day, John Stanford, McDonald, West Woodland	Salmon Bay (K-8)	-APP at Lincoln Hamilton Garfield
Madison	Alki, Gatewood, Lafayette, Schmitz Park	Pathfinder (K-8) K-5 STEM at Boren (K-5)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
McClure	Blaine (K-8), Coe, Hay, Lawton	Queen Anne (K-5)	-APP at Lincoln Hamilton Garfield
Mercer	Beacon Hill, Dearborn Park, Hawthorne, Kimball, Maple, Van Asselt	Orea (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield
Washington	Gatzert, John Muir, Leschi, Lowell, Madrona (K-8), McGilvra, Montlake, Stevens, Thurgood Marshall	TOPS (K-8)	Thurgood Marshall Washington Garfield

²⁴ Ingraham also offers the advanced APP/IB program, but is not a pathway school.

Whitman	Adams, Broadview-Thomson (K-8), Bagley, Greenwood, Loyal Heights, North Beach, Northgate, Viewlands, Whittier	Salmon Bay (K-8)	-APP at Lincoln Hamilton Garfield
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Note: Information about schools, by type and level, including maps of attendance areas, feeder patterns, and GeoZone (if applicable), are available on the School Directory page of seattleschools.org. See the approved Transportation Service Standards for information about transportation eligibility.

APPENDIX B

Open Choice Seats

The number of Open Choice seats for 9th–12th grade students from outside of the attendance area is calculated as follows:

Set target enrollments for each grade based on 25% of each school's program capacity.

- ~~But, if projected enrollment at any grade is more than 25% of program capacity, reduce targets in all grades accordingly.~~

If the grade or school's projected enrollment is:

- ~~90% or less of the grade's target enrollment, the minimum number of Open Choice seats will be 10%. There will be more Open Choice seats added (above the minimum) if attendance area enrollment is less than 90% of target enrollment.~~
- ~~91% -100% of the grade's target enrollment, the minimum number of Open Choice seats will be less than 10%.~~
- ~~More than 100% of the grade's target enrollment, there are no Open Choice seats.~~

~~Elementary and middle schools do not have designated Open Choice seats. Assignment of non-attendance area students is based on space availability and tiebreakers.~~

APPENDIX C

Geographic Zones for Option School Tiebreakers

The tiebreakers for Option Schools are:

1. Sibling
2. Geographic Zone (GeoZone)
3. Lottery

GeoZones give tiebreaker priority for students who live near the school. In some cases, they can also be used to improve diversity and as a tool for capacity management. GeoZones are not a guarantee of assignment to the requested option school, and are likely to change periodically.

GeoZones for Option Schools are shown on the following pages:

High School Option Schools

- Center School
- Cleveland STEM
- Nova

K-8 Option Schools

- Jane Addams
- Pinehurst
- Orca
- Pathfinder
- Salmon Bay
- South Shore
- TOPS

K-5 Option Schools

- Queen Anne
- Thornton Creek
- K-5 STEM at Boren (new in 2013-14)



Seattle Public Schools



Photos by Susie Fitzhugh

Student Assignment Plan - Revisions that Streamline and Update

Board Introduction - October 7, 2015

Flip Herndon, Ashley Davies, Brent Kroon

Objectives

- Streamline Student Assignment Plan for 2016-17 school year (and beyond)
- Implement final state of Student Assignment Plan, as approved by Board in 2009
- Standardize tiebreakers
- Prepare families for February 2016 Open Enrollment period

Timeline

- **Sept 17:** Operations Committee (completed)
- **Early Oct:** Public meetings for discussion
 - Oct 1: Thornton Creek (completed)
 - Oct 5: Schmitz Park (completed)
 - Oct 6: Meany Building (completed)
- **Oct 7:** Introduction to School Board
- **Oct 21:** Action by School Board

Why this is Necessary

- Provides a single, standardized document
- Resolves conflicting and confusing language between Transition Plans and Student Assignment Plan
- Eliminates outdated information about programs and services
- Enhances clarity and communication with families
- Allows schools and families to prepare for start of school, before classes begin

Key Proposed Revisions

- Tiebreakers standardized among attendance area (AA) schools
 - Eliminates distance tiebreaker
- Student Assignment Plan document streamlined
 - Specifics around Programs and Services will be maintained by respective offices (Advanced Learning, ELL, Transportation, etc.)
 - Waitlists dissolved prior to start of school

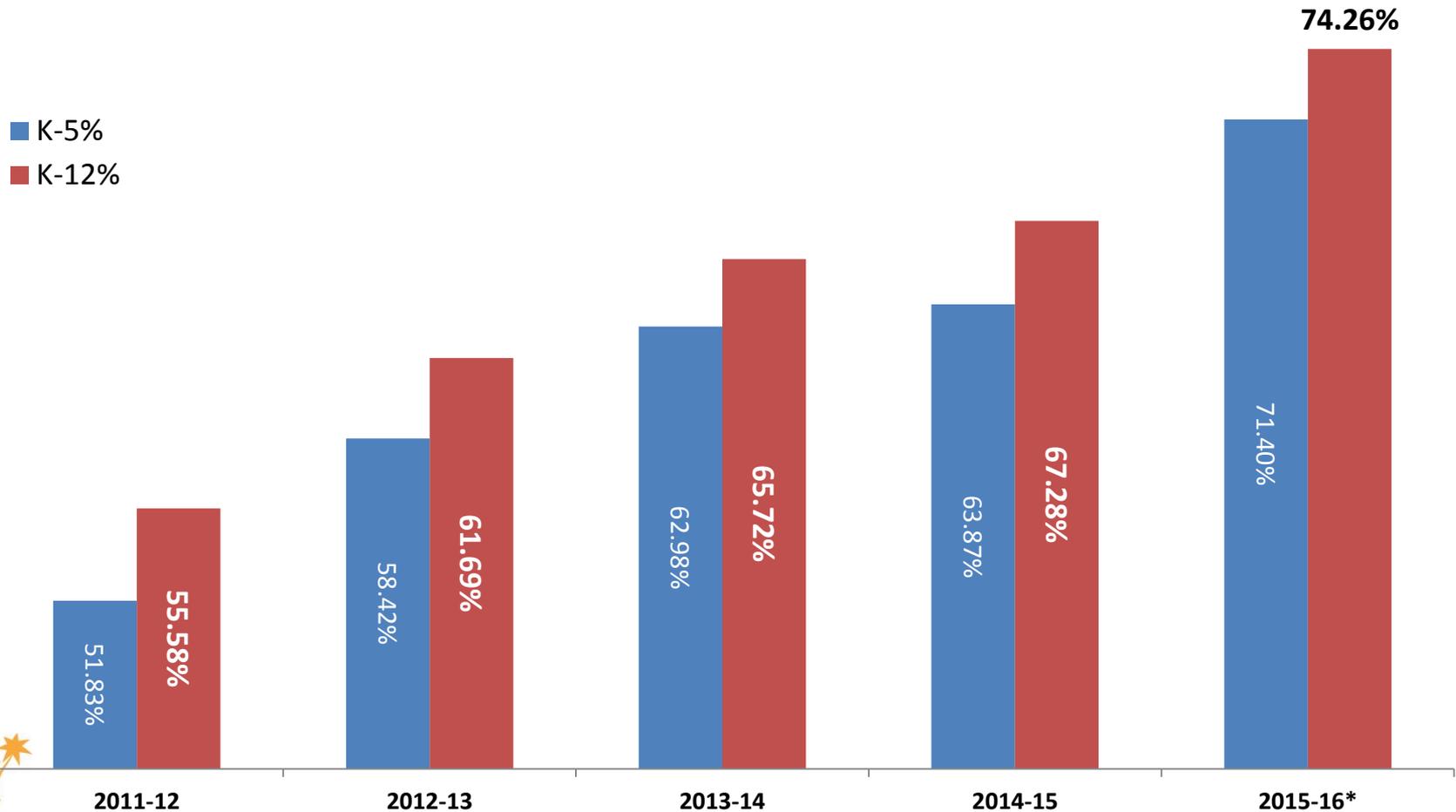
Assignment Plan Tiebreakers

- Student Assignment Plan tiebreakers (as approved in 2009)
 - AA: Sibling, (Feeder School for MS), Lottery
 - Option: Sibling, Geographic Zone (GeoZone), Lottery
- 2013-14 Annual Transition Plan tiebreakers
 - AA: Sibling, (Feeder School for MS) Distance, Lottery
 - Option: Sibling, GeoZone, Lottery
- **Proposed tiebreakers for 2016-17 (and beyond)**
 - **AA Schools: Sibling, Lottery**
 - **Option Schools: Sibling, GeoZone, Lottery**

Rationale

- Restores original Student Assignment Plan tiebreakers (Board approved in 2009)
- Nearly 75% of families are projected to enroll at their AA school in 2015-16
- Greater equity in choice process: true choice plan should allow for any student, anywhere to choose a desired school, regardless of proximity
- Increasingly sibling is the only criteria determining choice assignment, due to capacity constraints

Families increasingly enrolling in their AA School





Seattle Public Schools: Every Student. Every Classroom. Every Day.

